

PALM LEAFSPOT
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A leafspot common on many palms is caused by the fungus *Stigmina palmivora* (Sacc.) Hughes (syn. *Exosporium palmivorum* Sacc.). In Florida, the fungus has been found on the following palm hosts:

Arecastrum romanzoffianum (Chamisso) Beccari
Butia capitata (Maritus) Beccari var. *capitata*
Caryota mitis Laureiro
Phoenix canariensis Chabaud
Phoenix dactylifera Linnaeus
Phoenix loureirii Kenth
Phoenix reclinata Jacquin
Phoenix roebelenii O'Brien
Phoenix rupicola Anderson
Roystonea regia Cook
Sabal palmetto (Walter) Loddiges
Thrinax microcarpa Sargent
Veitchia merrillii (Beccari) Moore

This disease is usually found on plants grown under glass or lath where insufficient light is provided. Lesions, Fig. 1, first appear as minute, circular, tan spots which are transparent when held to the light (A). As the lesion develops, it becomes circular to elongate, light to medium brown, depressed, with a dark brown to black spot in the center, and surrounded by a somewhat diffuse yellow halo (B). The centers of these lesions become dark brown with a lighter brown margin, and the halo becomes quite diffuse as development continues (C). Fully matured lesions are elongate, centers tan, depressed, with dark brown margins, and measure 1-2 x 2-3 mm (D). Several lesions may coalesce to form irregularly shaped spots up to 8 mm. All stages of lesion development may also be observed on the rachis of the palm fronds. Extent of damage to leaflets is shown in Fig. 2.

Severity of the disease may be reduced by removing infected leaves and spraying the foliage at regular intervals with fixed copper.

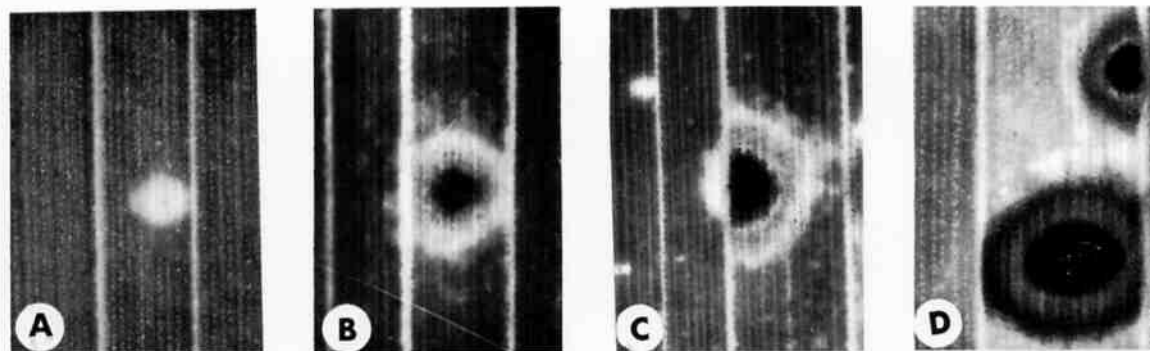


Fig. 1. Leafspots of *Exosporium palmivorum* Sacc.
enlarged to show details of individual lesions.

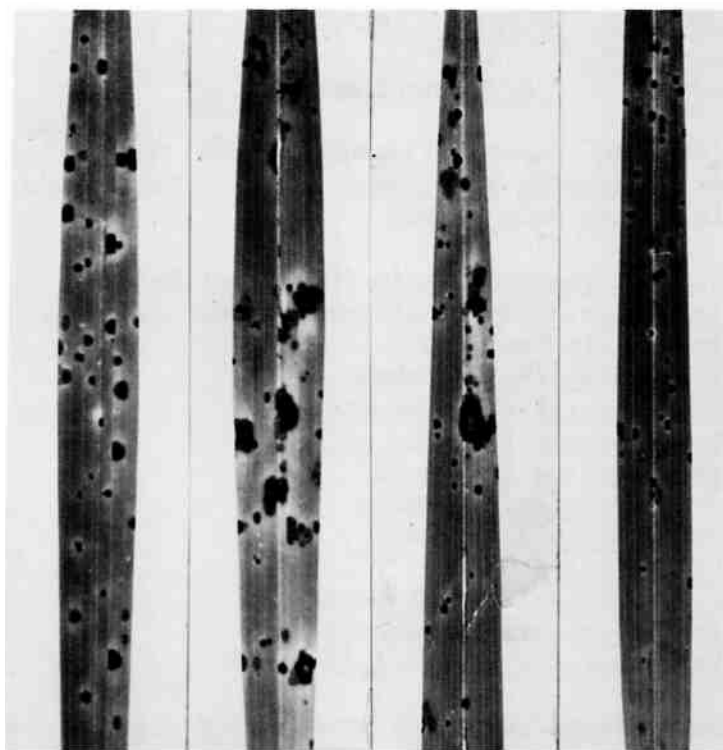


Fig. 2. Palm leaflets showing damage caused by the fungus.

References Used

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